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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Progress in Construction Work on Baltic-White Sea Canal/Reported Airfield South of Koudopoga

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

"Work on the clearing, deepening and widening of various sections of the Baltic-White Sea Canal was intensive during April, 1953. On the sector of the Canal between Kudovoiy and Belomorsk the work proceeded day and night, without respite. The work sites were illuminated at night by military searchlights. The electricity supplied by floating electric power stations. Over 7,000 civilian workers, organized into 100 workers' brigades, and about 3,000 Soviet soldiers of the Engineer Corps were employed on this sector.

"About nine km south of the port of Kudovoiy a new military hydroplane base is under construction. The work site is completely closed to outsiders. It is visited by units of the Lake Omega Flotilla. The base of this flotilla is situated in the port of Plesetsk.

"On Klimovskiy Island in Lake Omega, and in the port of Shala on the southern coast of Lake Omega, large military radio stations are being built, most probably for the use of military aircraft.

"Since mid-April 1953 a new airfield and a base for launching heavy rockets and pilotless planes has been completed and put in operation on a peninsula some 55 km south of the port of Koudopoga. The airfield is connected by a dam and a two-track, narrow gauge railway line with a military supply base now [May 1953] under construction on Lake Omega."

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